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pages of systematic descriptions in connection with the plankton work, including both plant and animal forms; plant morphology receives some attention, and bacteriological and plankton technique are more or less fully described. One is doubtful whether the physiological viewpoint even prevails.

The book is an outgrowth of exercises that have been used in teachers' courses for fourteen years, involving at least 25 repetitions. In spite of this, one is unable to judge whether it is more a laboratory manual or a descriptive text. It seems poorly suited for either.—WILLIAM CROCKER.

### Diseases of tropical plants

COOK<sup>4</sup> has published a timely volume which introduces us in a compact way to the diseases of the tropics. The study of plant pathology has been chiefly with the crop plants of the temperate regions, but with the growing interest in tropical plants, there must come a knowledge of the tropical diseases. This vast field has yet to be developed, but the scattered literature that does exist should be brought together, and this COOK has done in a very effective way. The spirit of the book is modern, for instead of being merely a list of the parasites inducing diseases, there is a chapter on the nature and symptoms of diseases, and another on the structure and functions of plants. The classification of the disease-producing fungi is restricted to a single chapter, and then a series of chapters takes up the study of the best known tropical diseases. Two final chapters discuss prevention and control, fungicides and spraying apparatus.—J. M. C.

### A weed flora

PAMMEL<sup>5</sup> has set the pace for a comprehensive book on the weed flora of a state. He makes the statement that a conservative estimate of the damage done to the crops of Iowa by weeds is \$25,000,000 annually. If this is true, it is certainly high time the farmers should learn to recognize the dangerous weeds and eliminate them. The contents of the volume can be best indicated by the chapter titles. The first chapter is a descriptive manual (400 pp.), in which every weed is illustrated and its distribution through the state indicated upon a map. The remaining chapter titles are as follows: the general character of seeds; the microscopic structure of some weed seeds; morphology of flowers and leaves; scattering of weeds; roots and rootstocks of weeds; number and kind of weeds in different soils; injuriousness of weeds; weed migration; medicinal weeds; phenology of weeds; weeds and seed laws.—J. M. C.

<sup>4</sup> COOK, M. T., *The diseases of tropical plants*. 8vo. pp. xi+317. *figs.* 85. London: Macmillan. 1913. \$2.75.

<sup>5</sup> PAMMEL, L. H., *The weed flora of Iowa*. Iowa Geological Survey. Bull. no. 4. pp. xiii+912. *figs.* 570. 1913.